

Enteric Fever. For two years no case of enteric fever has been reported.

Diphtheria. This type of disease which usually accompanies unhealthy sanitary conditions was found in March at Ismere, but there is good reason to suppose that it was contracted outside the district. Swabs taken at Shenstone revealed positive proof of the existence in one case of a girl of 12 attending the school. In one other case, a boy of 13 living at Rushock, was found to be suffering from the contagion.

There were ten cases in all notified, and these were all of a mild character, and there was nothing in the nature of a serious outbreak as was experienced the previous year when 15 cases were notified. Nine houses were affected and three deaths occurred.

Your Medical Officer of Health on January 23rd visited a child attending Stone Schools supposed to be suffering from this complaint. Twenty-three swabs were taken from the throats of other children suffering from colds, and no further cases occurred.

A similar course was pursued at Rushock Schools where a boy of 8 was found to have contracted sore throat.

Phthisis. Seven cases of phthisis were notified and three deaths occurred. One patient resident in Birmingham came to the district for his health, and one case was reported by the School Medical Officer.

The conditions generally regarding this disease have vastly improved.

Puerperal Fever. There were no cases of puerperal fever and as a matter of fact only two cases have been notified since 1913.

Ophthalmia. No cases of ophthalmia have been reported: and only one the previous year.

Small-pox. A case of small-pox was reported. The man had been a passenger on board the S.S. Czantza, returning from the East and a communication was received from the Ministry of Health concerning the case. The suspected case was visited, but was found to be quite free from any trace of the disease. The case was under observation for some time but no symptoms developed.

Malarial Fever. This disease, bequeathed to us from the War was found in the case of two ex-soldiers who had served in the eastern theatre of the war. No doubt the malady will reappear at intervals.

Anthrax. One case occurred, that of a weaver at a local firm, who was treated at the Infirmary. The man resided in Wribbenhall. The infection is supposed to have been contracted whilst following his occupation. H.M. Inspector of Factories for the district as well as the Factory Surgeon enquired into the case.

Erysipelas. There is every reason to believe that this malady is abating. One case was reported in 1920, but none the previous year.

Polio-Myelitis. One case--a girl of 12--whose progress was most satisfactory.

Whooping Cough. There was no outbreak of a serious character during the year. Wribbenhall Council and C.E. Schools were closed for 7 and 14 days respectively which had the effect of stamping out the disease: and at the end of the period it was found to be free.

Measles. As is usual a number of Schools were affected by the outbreak of measles. Upper Arley school was closed as well as Stone C.E. Cookley, and Wribbenhall C.E. The attack, however, was of a very mild nature and no deaths were recorded.

Influenzal Pneumonia. This scourge—which the last two or three years has decimated this and other countries—has abated and no cases have been brought to my notice, and it is believed there were no cases in the district. This is a satisfactory state of things and shows the healthy condition of the district. Copies of the pamphlet on "Influenza" prepared by the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health were distributed in the district, and while it is a matter which cannot satisfactorily be proved there is no doubt that the few simple hints given in the pamphlet has had good effect.

Water Supply. The water supply of any district where there is not a proper and full service is always a matter of anxiety and the matter has seriously engaged the attention of the Council during the year. In the greater part it is derived from Wells and Springs which are and have been under constant supervision. A few of the houses in the more immediate vicinity of the Boro' of Kidderminster obtain their supply from the Boro' mains.

In accordance with instructions from the Council, your Sanitary Inspector took various samples which were submitted to the County Analyst. A number of connections to public mains have been made at Wribbenhall, and in May samples of water from Wells at Dowles, Trimpley, and Wribbenhall, for purposes of analysis were taken.

Twenty-seven samples were taken—16 from Cookley and 11 from Wolverley districts—during May June and July, the results of the analysis being shown in the special report presented as follows:—

"As is generally known, the water used for drinking purposes has to be obtained from Wells adjacent to the cottages, and during the last few months frequent samples have been obtained from the Wells in these districts. In all 27 samples have been thus taken and these have been submitted to the County Analyst, who, in 19 instances has certified them as "Unfit" for drinking purposes. Such a report calls attention to the grave danger to the health of the inhabitants of these districts.

The close proximity of the dumbwells to the drinking water Wells is bound sooner or later to react against the purity of the supply of drinking water and it cannot be too strongly pointed out that there is, in this, a constant and ever increasing menace to the public health.

The water supply of the district has frequently engaged the attention of the Council and your Officers during the past two or three years: and in reviewing the position we would say that the inhabitants of these villages derive their water exclusively from Wells, which are, so far as our experience extends, almost always, more or less, polluted by animal matter. The common practice is to dispose of the sewage and to provide for the water supply of each cottage upon the same premises. In the garden attached or near at hand pits are usually dug in the porous soil to varying depths. Into one of these—usually the shallower of the two—all the liquid waste of the house is discharged. From the other, which is sunk below the water line of the porous stratum, the water for drinking purposes is obtained. Not infrequently the Wells are in close proximity, and so the contents of the cesspool gradually soaks away through the surrounding soil and mingles with the water below.

During the months May-June and July—27 samples of water were taken, and briefly summarised the results of the Analyses are as follows:—:

Water Supply.Contd.

No of samples taken.....	27.
No of houses affected.....	112.
No of persons using(as well as the children at the School,Wolverley).....	410.
No of samples certified to be "Fit"for drinking purposes....	8.
No of samples certified " " "Unfit" " " " "	19.
	<u>Fit. Unfit.</u>
Samples from 6 wells(May.19th)at Cornsall & Blueball.....	4 2
" " 6 " (June 1st) " Lower Cockley,Village, Portway Place,Lion Fields. ---	6
" " 4 " (June 7th) " Awstcliffe Road & Castle Road,Cockley. 1	3
" " 5 " (June 16th)" The Village,Wolverley. 3	2
" " 6 " (July 2nd) " Fairfield,Wolverley. ---	6
27.	8 19

From the 6 wells in Cockley Village,Awstcliffe Road,Portway Place,Castle Road and Lion Fields,all the samples have been "classed as Unfit and as these Wells supply the water for 202 persons in 57 houses,the serious nature of the case can be readily "estimated.

Of the six wells at Cornsall and Blueball-affecting 89 persons in 23 houses-four are reported "Fit"for drinking purposes and "two as "Unfit".

In Wolverley the situation presents the gravest danger.At "Fairfield not one of the 6 samples taken from the Wells is Fit "for drinking purposes. This affects 49 persons in 13 houses.There "are five Wells in Wolverley Village which were sampled,and though "some improvement is noted,yet even here two of the samples are "certified "Unfit" and as one of these is at the school house,the "danger to the child life of the Parish must be very evident.

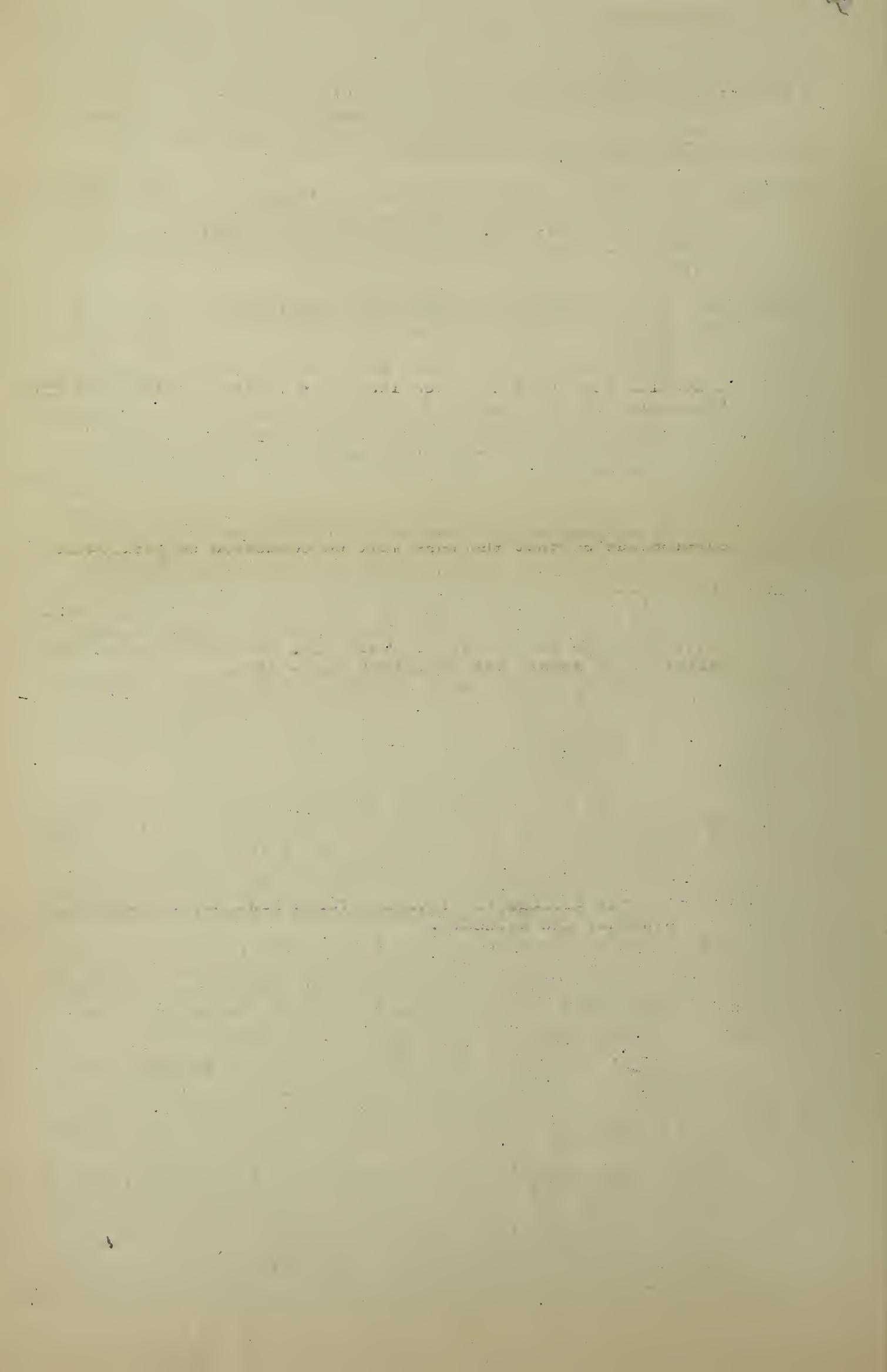
In the consideration of this matter we would point out that "the Kidderminster water supply runs through certain portions of "the Village of Wolverley,and the Birmingham Mains also pass "through both Wolverley and Cockley at such an altitude as to "enable us to say it should not be either impossible or a very "expensive matter to tap these Mains,which,owing to their position "would supply every portion of these two Districts by gravitation.

Your Council are aware that the water supply cannot be treated alone. The present system of sewage disposal at once reveals the "inadequate and thoroughly unsatisfactory nature of the treatment "of the sewage,and it would be obviously impolitic to report upon "the water supply without calling attention to the Dumbwell arrange- "ments in the area under review. The solid matter from the middens "is emptied on the land and the effluent drained into the soil and "inevitably percolates into the deeper land adjacent to the Wells. "Thus in considering an improved water supply the question of "sewage disposal cannot be lost sight of by your Council"

The matter was long and earnestly discussed,but bearing in mind the inflated state of the labour market the Council decided to suspend the matter for the time being. Thus an important matter affecting the health of the inhabitants of those districts is in abeyance.

I believe your Council are not unmindful of the serious state of the water supply,and I may be permitted to express a hope that so important a matter may not be relegated to oblivion or lost sight of and that when conditions become more normal a scheme for a public water supply may be considered and undertaken.

In consequence of the disturbing nature of the reports from the Analyst,all the Wells and the conditions surrounding same have been kept under observation by your Sanitary Inspector.



Rivers and Streams. No pollution of Rivers or Streams has come to my knowledge. The refuse tipped by villagers at Wolverley, on the bank of the stream has now been prohibited: other means of dealing with the refuse having been found.

Drainage and Sewerage. The chief system in vogue in the district is to deal with house waste water by drainage to the Cesspools. In Wribbenhall these are attended to by Scavengers as occasion demands. In other parts of the district they are emptied by occupiers.

Scavenging. Wribbenhall scavenging scheme continues to work satisfactorily. Closet Pans and Ashbins are emptied weekly and cesspools as required.

In October, in accordance with the Council's instructions, a special report on the question of providing a Scheme for the Scavenging of the populous districts of Cookley and Wolverley was prepared and considered, and tenders for the work were obtained and sent to the Wolverley Parish Council. The scheme hung fire somewhat as the Wolverley Parish Council were not prepared to recommend the scheme owing to the cost not being (as they considered) proportionately levied. In the end your Council decided to push the matter forward and details were carried out so that the work will be commenced on April. 4th.

I append some details of the scheme:-:- The Scheme for Cookley is that two days scavenging work per week at least are necessary for a period of three months in order to effectively deal with and dispose of the existing large accumulations. Afterwards one day's work per week will meet the needs of this district and secure its efficient scavenging.

At Wolverley, one day's scavenging work every alternative week will meet the needs of the area to be covered.

The cost of this scheme is as follows:- For the use of Horse, Cart and man in charge 18-0 per day.
For extra man to assist. 8-0 " "
total 26/- per working day.

Tips for the reception of the refuse from both districts are satisfactory as to position and the tipping can be carried on without cause of complaint from any source.

The proposed areas to be included in the scheme are:-
For Cookley..Lion Fields to the Wharf at Awstcliffe, including all the village, the Vicarage, Forge Bank, Lower Cookley, Blueball and Cornsall.

For Wolverley..From Longbridge to Fairfield, The Vicarage to Blacksmith's Cottages, Wolverley House and right down to School Buildings and the cottages adjoining, and Seager's yard. This area practically includes the whole of the Village.

The estimate was ultimately reduced by 50% , so that the scheme will be carried through at a cost not exceeding £75 per annum.

Schools. The closing of 3 schools (as set out in tabular form in the Sanitary Inspector's report) for short periods has had the desired result in minimising the risk of contagion.

Much needed repairs and improvements at Broome Schools were carried out in the early part of last year, and the water supply made satisfactory by the cleansing of the Well.

Cookley schools were cleansed during August on my recommendation which effected much needed improvement.

Milk Supply. The Council have had the Sutton Road Dairy under consideration for some time and in consequence of certain irregularities and contraventions action had to be taken which resulted in the Ministry of Food revoking the retail licence to the owner. The matter arose in April when the Inspector visited the premises and found them unsatisfactory, when the owner promised to have the Dairy thoroughly renovated. In May some improvement was effected. In July I found it necessary to ask the Council to revoke the Licence as only minor improvements had been undertaken and the essential features left undone: as a result of which the facts were communicated to the Food Controller who revoked the licence.

Apart from this troublesome case the milk supply of the district may be said to be good.

Meat Inspection and Other Foods. The Sanitary Inspector holds a special Diploma as Meat Inspector: and visits have been paid by him weekly to the slaughterhouses in the district, chiefly when slaughtering is in progress.

The quality and quantity of other foods has been good, and a welcome improvement in this respect has been noted since the end of the war. There have been no convictions recorded.

Touching upon this subject it should be mentioned that arising out of an application for a License to use a building as a slaughterhouse at Shenstone, powers have been acquired by the Council to put into operation Bye-laws regulating such premises throughout the district.

Housing and Town Planning Acts. During the year the housing conditions of the district have occupied my attention. In company with your Sanitary Inspector houses in various parts of the district have been inspected and reports submitted month by month to your Council. Last year I called your attention to the number of houses which with due repair and renovation could be utilised to lessen the inconvenience caused by the shortage of houses and your Council have, during the year, ordered certain improvements which have done much to remedy the shortage. It will be fresh in your mind that the only acute shortage experienced was in the case of the man and wife living in the disused bakehouse at Wribbenhall, the result of which was that a Closing Order was issued.

Sanitary Inspection of the District. With regard to the sanitary inspection of the district I can say that the work is efficiently carried out by your Sanitary Inspector, who discharges all his tasks with promptitude.

Briefly to recapitulate the improvements they are:-a block of 3 cottages at Castle Yard, Wribbenhall, reconstructed and converted into one habitable dwelling house. This was a particularly satisfactory improvement. The cottage at Horseley Hill, Wolverley, which after being closed for 7 years was repaired and made fit for human habitation. The Cottages and old school house at Blakeshall Common were inspected and though I deemed it advisable to condemn the Rock houses, one other building was converted and is now in use.

One case of hardship arose with regard to the man and wife occupying a Barn at Dorhall, Chaddesley Corbett. The facts will be within your recollection, and with your permission I ordered them into the House until accommodation could be found.

Housing and Town Planning Acts.Contd. There are no unhealthy areas: and no cases of overcrowding have been found.

The number of new houses erected and of houses reconstructed during the year-in addition to those which have been made habitable-are 15.

Bakehouses. No nuisance has been reported. There are no underground bakehouses in the district.

Factories and Workshops. These have been regularly visited and attention paid to the sanitary requirements. There are no out-workers in the district.

Midwives' Acts, etc.,. The County Medical Officer receives all notifications, and births registered in the district are attended by Health Visitors appointed by the County Council. These Health Visitors are appointed for every parish and locality in the County.

Common Lodging Houses. There are no Common Lodging Houses or Collar Dwellings in the district.

Conclusion. This report would be incomplete if I did not once again pay my tribute to your Sanitary Inspector whose co-operation has been of the greatest importance. By his initiative, enterprise and tact, he has done much towards maintaining and developing the healthy conditions of the district. He keeps abreast of all the changes which take place in the duties of his office and is a diligent and zealous officer whose readiness to help I have always found of the greatest assistance.

I must also in the heartiest possible manner acknowledge the help and sympathy of the members of the Council in my work as your Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to remain,
Your obedient servant,

Bertram Addenbrooke. M.D., B.Hy.,

Houses and Localities.	Action taken and result.
Old School Building, Dowles. (Rev J. Tonks)	Formerly a School, and had been closed for 15 yrs. Has now been converted into a dwelling house, rendered fit and put into a thorough state of repair.
Wannerton Cottage, Blakedown. (A. E. Bond)	The old two roomed cottage demolished and a new house possessing 3 good bedrooms and every modern convenience erected in its place.
Pritchard's property (3 cottages) Castle Yard, Wribbenhall. (Mrs F. S. Pritchard)	These 3 cottages, two of which had only one bedroom each, have been converted into one good sized house and an office. Lighting and Ventilation of all rooms improved, new W.C.'s and drains.
Horsley Hill, Wolverley.	This cottage which had been closed for 7 yrs has been put in a state of repair and made habitable.
1-3 Rock Cottages, Workhouse Bank, Wolverley. (Mr W. Postins)	Negotiations were in progress when the war broke out for the conversion of these 3 cottages into one good house. Met the owner and arranged with him for the work to be proceeded with
Rock Cottage, Blakeshall. Common, Wolverley.	House put into a thorough state of repair.
Old School Buildings, Blakeshall Common, Wolverley.	Owner has agreed on the recommendation of M.O.H. and Inspector to convert this building into 2 houses, so as to provide 3 good bedrooms and 2 living rooms each. Wash-house and W.C. accommodation to be provided.
Farley's Cottages, Canal Side, Cookley. (Mr John Farley)	These 2 cottages were closed in 1914. Negotiations in progress with the owner for their re-building and extension, plans having been prepared, submitted and approved.
Anchor Inn Cottage, Cornsall, Cookley. (Mr Thos Griffin)	This cottage has been vacant for 16 yrs. Is now being put into a thorough state of repair. New W.C., Wash-house: Drains, etc., and lighting and ventilation of all rooms improved.
Westley's Cottages, Blueball, Cookley. (Mr W. Westley)	Closing Order applied for so that owner can proceed with the work of alteration, by which the old property will be converted into 2 or 3 good houses each containing 3 bedrooms and the usual out-offices.
Barn, Dorhall Farm, Chaddesley Corbett.	This building-occupied by a man & his wife & 2 children-was without domestic arrangements or convenience of any kind. Building closed by Order of the Council.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE(NOTIFICATION)ACT & INFECTIOUS
DISEASE(PREVENTION)ACT.

I have great pleasure in being able to point out the comparatively small number of cases of infectious disease reported during the 12 months, being much smaller than for many years past, which must be extremely satisfactory to your Council.

The cases notified were:-

Scarlet Fever.....	6	against	8	for 1919.
Diphtheria.	10	"	15	" "
Phthisis.	7	"	9	" "
Erysipelas.	1	"	0	" "
Malaria.	2	"	2	" "
Influenzal pneumonia.	0	"	8	" "
Polio-myelitis.	1	"	0	" "
Ophthalmia				
Neonatorum.	0	"	1	" "
Totals.	27	"	43	" "

As measles was not notifiable during the year this has not been included in the above return: whereas during the year 1919 there were 67 cases.

Two of the scarlet fever cases were removed to the Borough Infectious Hospital, by order of your Medical Officer of Health—one from Churchill and one from Upper Arley, because, in his opinion, local conditions were such as to prevent the patients being treated at home.

All the patients made a good recovery.

There were three deaths from phthisis (or consumption) and in each case the premises were disinfected, and bedding destroyed, in addition to which full enquiries were made as to the predisposing causes of the disease, length of illness and the possible source of infection.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

The following schools were closed during the year on account of the prevalence of sickness:-

School.	Disease.	Closed.		Disinfected.
		From	To	
Upper Arley C.E.	Measles.	Jan. 5th.	Jan 18th.	Jan 15th.
Stone C.E.	" "	July 12th.	July 23rd.	July 17th.
Cookley (Sebright)	" "	July 13th.	July 30th.	July 27th.
W'hall (Council)	Whooping Cough	Agst 23rd	Agst 28th.	Agst 23rd.
W'hall C.E.	Whooping Cough & Measles.	Sept 3th.	Sept 20th.	Sept 17th.
Cookley (Infants)	Measles.	Oct 21st.	Nov 3th.	Nov 4th.
Trimpley C.E.	Chicken-pox.	Nov 18th	Dec 4th.	Nov 27th.

The schools mentioned were visited on several occasions before closure and the effect of the outbreak on the attendance noted on each visit. Improvements in the sanitary arrangements of several of the schools have been carried out. The interior walls and other surfaces of the whole of Cookley schools were thoroughly cleaned and painted during the August holidays.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS.

176 visits of inspection were paid to the above during the past 12 months. 7 more Cowkeepers and milksellers were added to the register bringing the total number to 127.

The milk supply of the district has, on the whole, been well maintained. Considerable trouble was experienced with one cowkeeper in the district which was the subject of a special report to the Council, who instructed their Clerk to communicate with the Food Controller advising the revocation of the said cowkeepers' licence to sell milk.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The Council renewed the Knackers license to Messrs Perkins & Marsh. The premises used for this purpose were frequently inspected and found to be generally satisfactory.

The other slaughterhouses were also visited from time to time—usually on days when the slaughtering was in progress—and no cause of complaint was found.

In August a special visit was made to each slaughterhouse—in compliance with a request from the Ministry of Food as to the conditions of the same—in anticipation of the renewal of the respective Licenses. A report was submitted to the Ministry, through the Executive Officer, in which it was stated that the slaughterhouses of the district were found to be in an exceptionally satisfactory condition.

An application was received for the use of a building at Shennstone as a slaughterhouse, and your Council granted the necessary license.

Your Council are proceeding with the adoption of Bye-laws for the regulation of these buildings, which is most essential for the efficient control of such premises, and a step very necessary in the interests of the public health.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

There have been no cases of Anthrax or other diseases affecting cattle reported during the year.

UN SOUND FOOD.

The food supplies throughout the district have been kept under close and careful supervision during the year. The carcasses of 4 pigs slaughtered were examined at Wolverley and the flesh was found to be perfectly sound and wholesome and was duly passed as fit for human consumption.

No breach of the Food regulations was reported or discovered, and in no case, therefore, was it necessary to take action.

BAKEHOUSES.

All bakehouses have been periodically inspected and found to be in a generally satisfactory condition, having been cleansed and lime-washed as required.

OVERCROWDING.

There has been no case of overcrowding brought to my notice, nor has any case of the kind been found in the course of my inspections.

WATER SUPPLY.

Samples of water have been taken periodically from various parts of the district and submitted for analysis to the County Analyst, and in cases where the water was found to be unfit for drinking, steps were taken to get the owners to provide a proper supply from Council mains in those districts where there is a public water supply: in others, for the wells to be cleansed out and the surroundings of same to be duly attended to.

Twenty-seven samples were taken by special direction of your Council—16 from Cookley and 11 from Wolverley—for the purpose of the preparation of a special report to be prepared by your M.O.H. and myself on the water supply of these districts. This special report was submitted to your Council and a copy of same forwarded at your request to each member in September, 1920.

HOUSE SCAVENGING.

The system of house scavenging at Wribbenhall has been carried on satisfactorily during the year. Quite a number of privy-middens & privy-ashpits have been converted into pan-closets (which are more easily attended to week by week) and ashbins have been provided for the deposit of house refuse, for facilitating the weekly removal of same.

In October a special report on the Cookley & Wolverley proposed scheme was prepared and submitted at your Novbr Meeting, such report having been prepared at the request of the Wolverley Parish Council. In this report the cost of a scheme was submitted and the area it was proposed to cover.

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS ACTS.
(Workshops & Workplaces)

These have been regularly visited, but no infringements discovered. Special regard has been paid to the question of closet accommodation.

The following is a list of the Workshops now in the district:-

Bakers.....5	Confectioners.....2	Printers.....1
Blacksmiths..8	Coffin Makers.....2	Plumbers.....5
Boot Reprrs..8	Cycle Makers.....2	Photographers...2
Boat Blars...1	Dressmakers.....14	Saddlers.....1
Builders.....6	Joiners.....4	Stonemasons.....2
Cabinet Mkrs.3	Laundries.....3	Tailors, Drapers.3
Carpenters...8	Milliners.....7	Wheelwrights....6.
Coal Merchts.6.	Painters.....6	
		----- Total. 105.

No cases of home-workers have come under my notice, and no list has been sent in of outworkers from any employers in the district.

CANAL BOATS.

During the year 27 visits were paid to the Wharves, etc., 86 Boats were examined and contraventions were found in 13 cases.

Boats inspected.	83.
Boats contravening the Acts or Regulations.	13+
Persons for which the Cabins were registered.	259.
Persons occupying the Cabins.	204.
Men on the Boats.	182.
Women on the Boats.	11.
Children on the Boats(between the ages of 5 & 12)	7.
Children on the Boats(under 5 yrs of age).	4.

Details of contraventions:-:-

Boats not carrying certificate of registration.	1.
Boats not properly marked.	2.
Boats overcrowded.	3.
Dirty Cabins.	3.
Painting requiring renewal.	2.
Want of proper vessels for drinking water.	2.
	13.

No case of infectious disease has been met with upon any of the boats, nor has any such case been notified as occurring amongst the occupants. At the end of the year all contraventions had been remedied and your requirements complied with.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Ten applications for licences to store and sell petroleum were received during the year and granted. Visits were paid from time to time to the different premises for which the licences have been held throughout the district, and in no case was any infringement found.

Your requirements and those of the Petroleum Acts have been complied with.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I would like to be again permitted to thank the Council for the support and assistance they have given me in the discharge of my duties during the year, and also for their kindness to me, which I can assure them I very greatly appreciate.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your Obedient Servant,

Daniel Lawrence
Inspector of Nuisances.

